

Application/Control Number: 09/579,792
Art Unit: 2672

Docket No.: PALM-2940

REMARKS

Reconsideration and Allowance in view of the forgoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this amendment, claims 1-23 are pending, claims 1, 5-8, 9, 10, 13, and 17-20 were amended, and claims 22 and 23 were added. Claims 1, 5-8, 9, 10, 13, and 17-20 were amended only to improve the presentation of the claims. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims do not narrow the scope of the claims. The specification was amended only to correct typographical errors.

Rejection of Claims 1-21

On page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,433,798 to Smith et al. ("Smith") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,521,770 to Rhyne. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method, in a computer system, of displaying information. The method includes, among other things, an application program of the computer system making a call to request a display attribute for an object to be displayed on a display screen. On page 2, of the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that this feature is disclosed by Smith, at 121 and 104 of Fig. 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

According to Smith, at col. 3, lines 64-67, applications 121 reside on top of user interface 122 and may include any type of applications running on a computer device 102 that can be used in conjunction with user interface 122. Fig. 4 of Smith shows a visualization subsystem 404, which handles drawing and outputting of objects to display 104. According to Fig. 4 of Smith and Smith, at col. 6, lines 39-44, application specific logic and data 406 contain code and data for implementing non-visual functions of an application. For example, application specific logic

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and data 406 can compute a bank account balance, while visualization subsystem 404 can display the bank account balance.

Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that an application program is a computer program for performing a specific kind of task, such as, for example, word processing, or a spreadsheet application. Thus, application specific data and logic 406 of Smith pertains to an application program. Visualization subsystem 404 of Smith includes components for displaying objects and for displaying data supplied by an application program, such as application specific data and logic 406. Visualization subsystem 404 may be used to display values calculated by an application program, but is not, itself, an application program. Further, Applicant submits that Smith is completely devoid of any disclosure or suggestion of an application program of a computer system making a call to request a display attribute for an object to be displayed on a display screen, as required by claim 1.

Rhyne relates to an interactive buffered raster display system (Rhyne, at col. 1, lines 7-10). However, Rhyne also fails to disclose or suggest an application program of a computer system making a call to request a display attribute for an object to be displayed on a display screen, as required by claim 1.

Because neither Smith nor Rhyne disclose or suggest, either separately or in any combination, an application program of a computer system making a call to request a display attribute for an object to be displayed on a display screen, as required by claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over Smith in view of Rhyne and respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 13 each recite a similar feature and are patentable over Smith in view of Rhyne for reasons similar to those provided with respect to claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 10 and 13 be withdrawn.

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Claims 2-9, 11, 12, and 14-21 depend from one of claims 1, 10 and 13 and are patentable over Smith in view of Rhyne for at least the reasons provided with respect to claims 1, 10 and 13. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that other claims are patentable over Smith in view of Rhyne for reasons of their own. For example, claims 4 and 16 further recite that one of the display attribute lists has all of its associated display attributes as colors which are substantially different from each other, such that debugging the application program is facilitated. On pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Smith discloses this feature at col. 4, lines 45-51, col. 6, lines 3-7 and col. 6, line 63.

Smith, at col. 4, lines 45-51 discloses:

Note that fading of an object can be implemented in different ways. Color or grayscale levels can be varied when drawing the object. Pixels of the object can be selectively changed to either blank or transparent while the object is being drawn. Alternatively, a predefined set of icons with varying levels of fadedness can be pre-defined for each type of display object.

Thus, Smith discloses that there can be various methods for implementing fading of an object and that color or grayscale levels can be varied. Further, Smith discloses that pixels of an object can be selectively changed while the object is being drawn and that predefined icons with different levels of fadedness can be predefined for display objects. However, this portion of Smith fails to disclose or suggest that one of the attribute lists has all of its associated display attributes as colors which are substantially different from each other, such that debugging the application program is facilitated, as recited in claims 4 and 16.

Smith, at col. 6, lines 3-7, discloses:

The components of x may also represent other display attributes, such as shape, saturation of color, hue, the speed with which the object blinks or wiggles, the degree to which the object is in focus or blurred, the thickness of the object's outline, and so forth.

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Thus, Smith discloses that components of x , an N -dimensional vector that includes a location of an object (Smith, at col. 5, lines 54-55), may represent other display attributes. However, this portion of Smith fails to disclose or suggest that one of the attribute lists has all of its associated display attributes as colors which are substantially different from each other, such that debugging the application program is facilitated, as recited in claims 4 and 16.

Smith, at col. 6, line 63 discloses that “[t]hese display attributes may specify color, size, and positional attributes of an object.” However, this portion of Smith also fails to disclose or suggest that one of the attribute lists has all of its associated display attributes as colors which are substantially different from each other, such that debugging the application program is facilitated, as recited in claims 4 and 16.

Applicant submits that Smith discloses that display attributes such as, for example, color, fadedness, or level of grayscale may vary. However, Smith is completely devoid of any disclosure or suggestion of one of the attribute lists having all of its associated display attributes as colors which are substantially different from each other, such that debugging the application program is facilitated, as recited in claims 4 and 16. Applicant further submits that Rhyne also fails to disclose or suggest this feature either separately or in combination with Smith.

New Claims 22 and 23

New claims 22 and 23 require, among other things, receiving, in an operating system, a request from an application program for a display attribute for an object to be displayed on a display screen and returning, to the application program, the display attribute for the object to be displayed. For reasons similar to those provided with respect to claims 1, 10 and 13, Applicant submits that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, either separately or in combination, such a feature.

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CONCLUSION

Having addressed all rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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